

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 16, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street, SW, Mail Stop 0150  
Washington, DC 20528-0150

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Like many Americans, we are concerned about the possibility that the Biden administration may be mulling plans to bring large numbers of Palestinians into the United States. As you know, at least one Democratic House member has already called for the wide-scale resettlement of Palestinians in American communities.<sup>1</sup> When asked if administration officials were considering such a scheme, a White House spokesman refused to explicitly rule it out – saying only that there are “no plans” to do so “at this time.”<sup>2</sup>

It is hardly a secret that the Biden administration has repeatedly exceeded its executive authority, allowing massive numbers of foreign nationals to enter our country outside the scope of existing immigration laws. One of the most flagrant examples of this abuse is the widespread use of so-called “categorical parole,” which the Biden administration has used to release as many as one million aliens without visas into the United States<sup>3</sup> – including thousands from Afghanistan alone.<sup>4</sup>

These efforts by the White House to set up and operate what can only be described as a parallel, extra-legal immigration system have raised alarm across the country and yielded grim results. The chaotic resettlement of more than 76,000 Afghans in the wake of the fall of Kabul, for example, resulted in countless Afghans who played no role whatsoever in assisting American forces during the war winding up in the United States. In other cases, we saw Afghans with past criminal convictions<sup>5</sup> – including individuals who had been previously deported – making their way on to evacuation flights,<sup>6</sup> and the resettlement of others who went on to commit appalling crimes ranging from assault<sup>7</sup> to sexual abuse of minors.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nypost.com/2023/10/14/progressives-call-for-us-to-take-refugees-from-gaza/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house-gop-members-introduce-bill-block-palestinian-refugees-entering-us>

<sup>3</sup> <https://cis.org/Report/Parole-Benefits>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/oct/14/republicans-introduce-bill-block-flow-palestinians/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/aug/30/convicted-rapist-reached-us-afghan-evacuation-flig/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/sep/16/second-major-felon-found-on-afghan-evacuation-flig/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/sep/24/alleged-assault-female-fort-bliss-service-member-a/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/sep/23/afghan-evacuees-us-military-base-charged-domestic-/>

While deeply troubling, this is hardly surprising given that one Customs and Border Protection official characterized the White House priority at that time as “*get[ting] as many people on the plane as you can, and we’ll sort out the (immigration visa) stuff later.*”<sup>9</sup>

Mr. Secretary, the American people do not want to see this dangerous situation repeated with Palestinians. Moreover, they deserve more than a vague assurance from a White House spokesman that the Biden administration hasn’t yet identified a legally dubious mechanism to flood American neighborhoods with foreigners from a region that is a global hotspot for Islamic terrorism.

Along those lines, we would ask that the department make an unequivocal public commitment sooner rather than later not to use “categorical parole” or any other loophole to bring Palestinians into the United States.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas P. Tiffany in black ink.

Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Andy Ogles in blue ink.

Andy Ogles  
Member of Congress

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/25/politics/arriving-afghans-paperwork-delays-security/index.html>